YEAR OF THE VILLAIN • THE OFFER
DC
75
RATED T TEEN
DCCOMICS.COM
The FLASH
EXTRA-SIZED ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!
BRING IT!
WILLIAMSON
PORTER
DUCE
KOLINS
HI-FI
GUERRERO
YEAR ONE FINALE!

DC YEAR OF THE VILLAIN
WHO ARE THE INFECTED?
Terrific
TM & © DC

FOR SO LONG I WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO LOOK FORWARD TO TOMORROW...
SLOWING DOWN TIME MIGHT CURE YOU, BUT THIS IS NOT THE WAY, TURTLE!
...BUT NOW TOMORROW IS HERE TO KILL ME!
YOU SOUND LIKE MY FAMILY, FLASH! THEY TRIED TO STOP ME, TOO!
BUT NOTHING WILL KEEP ME FROM MY DESTINY!

I'VE PLOTTED AND PLANNED FOR THIS MOMENT FOR AGES!
I DON'T WANT TO JUST CONTROL THE FUTURE, I WANT TO CONTROL ALL OF TIME!
ONCE I HAVE YOUR SPEED, I WILL USE IT TO POWER THE SHELL TOWER, CONNECTING THE PRESENT TO THE FUTURE! AND THE SECRETS OF OUR POWERS WILL FINALLY SHOW THEMSELVES!
WE'LL *DRAG* THE MULTIVERSE TO A HALT.
FWOOM
YOU MIGHT BE KING OF CENTRAL CITY IN THE FUTURE WHERE YOU COME FROM, TURTLE, BUT *I'M* HERE TO PUT A STOP TO YOU *TODAY!*

PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED HERE...IT MAY BE DANGEROUS, BUT IF FLASH ISN'T GIVING UP, NEITHER AM I.
KEEP FLASH OCCUPIED WHILE I READY THE CITIZENS OF CENTRAL CITY!

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?!
AFTER KING TURTLE KILLS THE FLASH, YOU WILL ALL BE SACRIFICED TO FINISH CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHELL!
YOU'RE LUCKY WE'RE IN CHAINS, BUDDY.

MY FUTURE SELF TOLD ME TO RUN AWAY FROM THIS FIGHT. THAT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE MYSELF. FOR THE WORLD TO LIVE, CENTRAL CITY MUST BE SACRIFICED.
TRRRZZZZ
FLASH ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FIGHT BACK!
CENTRAL CITY HAS HAD A HARD TIME LATELY...

...BUT I KNOW THEY WON'T GO DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT.
WE'RE FREE!
THE CHAINS ARE GONE, DAD!
WHAT ABOUT THE FLASH?
HE'S STILL FIGHTING EVEN THOUGH THEY GOT HIM OUT-NUMBERED!
WHEN I SAW YOU AT IRON HEIGHTS, YOU SAID WE WERE THE SAME!
BUT WE'RE NOTHING ALIKE!
WE GOTTA HELP FLASH!
UGH!
NO ONE TAKES OVER CENTRAL CITY!
YOU'RE JUST A SMALL MAN WHO BLAMES EVERYONE ELSE FOR HIS PROBLEMS.
KRAAK!!!

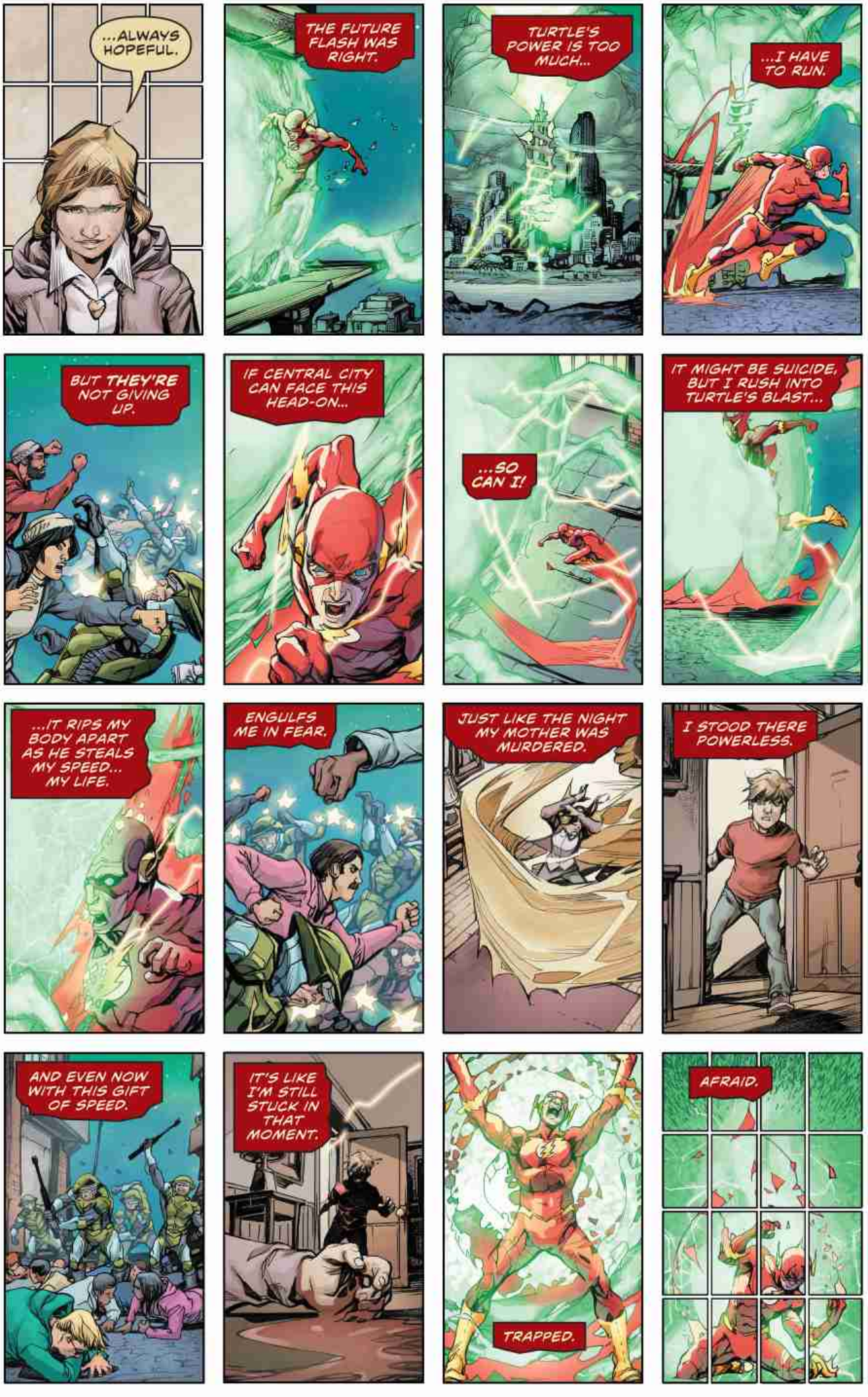
BUT I'M NOT AFRAID ANYMORE!
ENOUGH OF THIS GAME, YOU!
SLOW DOWN THE REVOLUTION ON THE STREETS WHILE I TAKE CARE OF THE FLASH ONCE AND FOR ALL.

FLASH HAS DONE TOO MUCH FOR CENTRAL CITY TO LET HIM FIGHT ALONE!
TEAR IT DOWN!

ALL OF CENTRAL CITY WILL BE SLOWED TO A CRAWL... STARTING WITH YOU.
YOU'RE BOTH CRAZY.
YOU'D BE CRAZY, TOO, IF YOU WERE FORCED TO LIVE LIFE AT A SNAIL'S PACE.
EVERY DAY IS AN ETERNITY.

GOT YA! YOU SHOULD HAVE RUN AWAY, FLASH. THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE.
IN EVERY TIMELINE YOU ESCAPED THIS FIGHT TO SAVE YOURSELF, AND NOW BECAUSE OF YOUR FOOLISHNESS...

...THE FUTURE IS FINISHED!
FWOOM
"THAT'S MY BARRY..."


...ALWAYS HOPEFUL.
THE FUTURE FLASH WAS RIGHT.
TURTLE'S POWER IS TOO MUCH...
...I HAVE TO RUN.
BUT THEY'RE NOT GIVING UP.
IF CENTRAL CITY CAN FACE THIS HEAD-ON...
...SO CAN I!
IT MIGHT BE SUICIDE, BUT I RUSH INTO TURTLE'S BLAST...
...IT RIPS MY BODY APART AS HE STEALS MY SPEED... MY LIFE.
ENGULFS ME IN FEAR.
JUST LIKE THE NIGHT MY MOTHER WAS MURDERED.
I STOOD THERE POWERLESS.
AND EVEN NOW WITH THIS GIFT OF SPEED.
IT'S LIKE I'M STILL STUCK IN THAT MOMENT.
TRAPPED.
AFRAID.

THAT NIGHT...WITH MY MOM IN THE ATTIC...WE TALKED ABOUT HEROES.
HOW HEROES NEVER LET FEAR GET THEM DOWN...
...AND RIGHT NOW, I KNOW WHO MY HERO IS...
I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU.
IRIS WORKS EVERY DAY SO PEOPLE GET THE TRUTH.
SO EVERYONE'S STORY IS TOLD.
HAVING HER IN MY LIFE SHOWED ME THERE COULD BE A BETTER TOMORROW.
I WOULD MOVE TIME AND SPACE ITSELF FOR HER.
IN THE PAST, THE FLASH WOULD RUN FROM THE FUTURE. TO SAVE HIMSELF.
I KNOW I COULD LOSE. THAT I COULD DIE.
BUT THAT WAS HIS MISTAKE.
I NEED TO RACE DIRECTLY INTO THAT FEAR.
IGNITE THE SPEED INSIDE TODAY TO FIND THE ONE THING THE TURTLE'S POWERS CAN NEVER TAKE FROM ME.

HOPE!

IMPOSSIBLE! HIS SPEED SHOULD BE MINE!
MY GAMBLE PAID OFF...MY SPEED COUNTERACTED HIS POWERS ONCE WE WERE CONNECTED, JUST LIKE THE FIRST TIME WE FOUGHT.
WE PLANNED FOR *EVERYTHING!*
HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, TURTLES. BUT I'M CHANGING THE STORY.
THIS TIME... THE *RABBIT* WINS!
UGH. I'LL NEVER BE GOOD AT TRASH TALK!
MY SUDDEN BURST OF SPEED BREAKS THE TURTLES' SHELL, DISCONNECTING IT FROM THE FUTURE.
BUT THE TURTLE STILL HAS HIS POWERS.
WHEN I FIRST GOT MY SPEED, I WAS SO SCARED THAT I WOULD *SHAKE.*
YOU'RE STILL TOO STUPID TO KNOW YOU CAN'T WIN!
FWOOM
AND I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE AFRAID THAN I AM RIGHT NOW...

SO I USE THAT FEAR.
I EMBRACE THOSE SHAKES UNTIL THEY TURN INTO VIBRATIONS AND HIT FREQUENCIES NO ONE HAS EXPERIENCED, AND I DART BETWEEN MOLECULES.
THE LIGHTNING EXPLODED THROUGH MY WINDOW, GRANTING ME THIS SPEED.
AND NOW I CAN FEEL THAT LIGHTNING BURST FROM MY BODY AS I USE THIS GIFT TO CONNECT WITH EVERY LIVING THING.
THE FUTURE FLASH SPOKE OF A MULTIVERSE.
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF THAT.
BUT I CAN FEEL SOMETHING AS I BLAST PAST INSANE IMAGES.
IT SHOWS ME THAT I'M PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN MYSELF. SOMETHING THAT STARTED BEFORE ME AND WILL OUTLIVE ME.
NOW THAT MY LIGHTNING IS EVERY-WHERE, I NO LONGER FEAR THE FUTURE.
IN FACT, I THINK I CAN SPEED UP ALL OF TIME AND SPACE JUST A FEW SECONDS AND TAKE EVERYONE TO THE FUTURE WITH ME. EVERYONE EXCEPT THE TURTLE.

TRAPPING THE TURTLE'S POWERS IN THE PAST!
NO, NO, NO!
AND SKIP THE TIME PARADOX THE FUTURE FLASH FEARED BEFORE IT CAN HAPPEN.
HEH.
RRAAAGGH!
NOT BAD, KID...
HHHH!
IT'S JUST LIKE THE FIRST TIME I TRAVELED THROUGH TIME. HURTLING THROUGH THE NOTHINGNESS OUTSIDE OF TIME AND SPACE.
I'M GOING SO FAST I'M TERRIFIED OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I TRY TO STOP.
BUT THEN I REMEMBER WHAT THE FUTURE VERSION OF ME SAID...

SLIDE INTO IT.
KING TURTLE IS GONE AND HE'S TAKEN THAT HORRIBLE FUTURE WITH HIM.
I CAN'T CONTROL OR PREDICT THE FUTURE. BUT I KNOW THAT TODAY...
...CENTRAL CITY AND ALL OF ITS CITIZENS ARE SAFE.

ALL EXCEPT ONE...
WHAT... WHAT...
FUTURE... DESTINY... LOST...
WHO...AM... I...?
STAY DOWN, TURTLE! OR I'LL--
IT'S OKAY, IRIS.
IT'S ALL OVER.
BARRY?
GET AWAY FROM HIM! HE'S DANGEROUS!
HE COULD BE.
BUT MAYBE WITH SOME HELP HE COULD HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD OF HIM.
I'LL CALL YOU LATER TO GET DINNER, OKAY?
UH... SURE...
HUH.
BARRY DIDN'T RUN AWAY AFTER ALL.

February 11th.
Flash Day.
FLASH DAY
CRIME DOWN IN CENTRAL CITY!
FLASH TAKES DOWN CAPTAIN COLD!
CENTRAL CITY REBUILDS
WHO IS THE FLASH?

THEY SAID NEXT YEAR THEY'LL GET A GIANT BALLOON...
AFTER THE TURTLE WAS DEFEATED, I RACED BACK TO MY LAB BUT THE FLASH FROM THE FUTURE WAS GONE.
THE TIME LOOP IS BROKEN.
THE FUTURE IS WHAT I WANT TO MAKE OF IT.
BUT I'M STILL HAUNTED BY THE PAST. MY MOTHER'S DEATH.
MY FATHER UNJUSTLY BEHIND BARS.
DOUBTS FILL MY MIND.
FLASH
WILL I EVER BE THE HERO I NEED TO BE?
THE FUTURE FLASH WAS A GREAT HERO. BUT EVEN HE FALTERED. THAT COULD BE ME, IF I EVER LOSE HOPE.
I JUST FEEL LIKE I'M MISSING SOMETHING. IT'S NOT THE COSTUME OR THE POWERS.
EVEN NOW I STILL LOOK AT THE SKY AND CAN SEE A STORM IS COMING...
...IT'S GOING TO RAIN--
BARRY?

ARE YOU REALLY WORKING ON FLASH DAY?
JUSTICE NEVER...
STOPS. I KNOW, I KNOW.
I SEE YOU FINALLY TOOK MY ADVICE AND GOT THE WINDOW FIXED?
I LIKE TAKING YOUR ADVICE.
HMM HMM...
GROSS.
IS SOMEONE WITH YOU?
YEAH, THEY'RE MAD I BROUGHT THEM INSIDE.
GET OVER HERE.
THIS IS MY BOYFRIEND, BARRY ALLEN.

THESE ARE MY NEPHEWS WALLY AND WALLACE. THEY'RE VISITING ME SO I CAN TAKE THEM TO SEE THE FLASH PARADE.
WALLY IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLASH FAN CLUB IN HIS HOMETOWN.
WALLY... WALLACE...?
YEAH, I KNOW, IT'S A LONG--
WVRRR VRRVR
DANG IT, I NEED TO TAKE THIS.
I'LL TAKE WALLACE... CAN YOU WATCH WALLY FOR A MINUTE?
THANKS!
SMCK
SOOOOO...
...THERE'S A FLASH FAN CLUB?
YEAH! I READ IRIS' ARTICLES ABOUT HIM ALL THE TIME!
I WAS KIND OF HOPING THE FLASH WOULD SHOW UP TODAY AND I'D GET TO TELL HIM HOW MUCH HE'S HELPED ME. LIKE, ON THE HARD DAYS.
FLASH SHOWED ME THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE FOR TOMORROW.
HE'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A COMIC BOOK, Y'KNOW?

YEAH...
I'M SURE IF FLASH HEARD HE INSPIRED ANYONE IT WOULD MAKE HIS WHOLE YEAR.

IT'S GREAT TO MEET YOU, WALLY.
DID YOU KNOW THE FLASH AND I ARE FRIENDS?
NO WAY...
THERE WAS A STORM THE NIGHT THAT MY MOM AND I READ HER OLD COMICS IN THE ATTIC.

IT'S ONE OF MY HAPPIEST MEMORIES WITH HER.
BUT SINCE THEN, I'VE ALWAYS WORRIED THAT A STORM WAS COMING.

CRAAAK
MEETING WALLY JUST NOW MADE ME REALIZE THAT IT WAS A STORM THAT BROUGHT THE LIGHTNING.
CENTRAL CITY POLICE
THE LIGHTNING THAT CHANGED MY LIFE FOREVER...

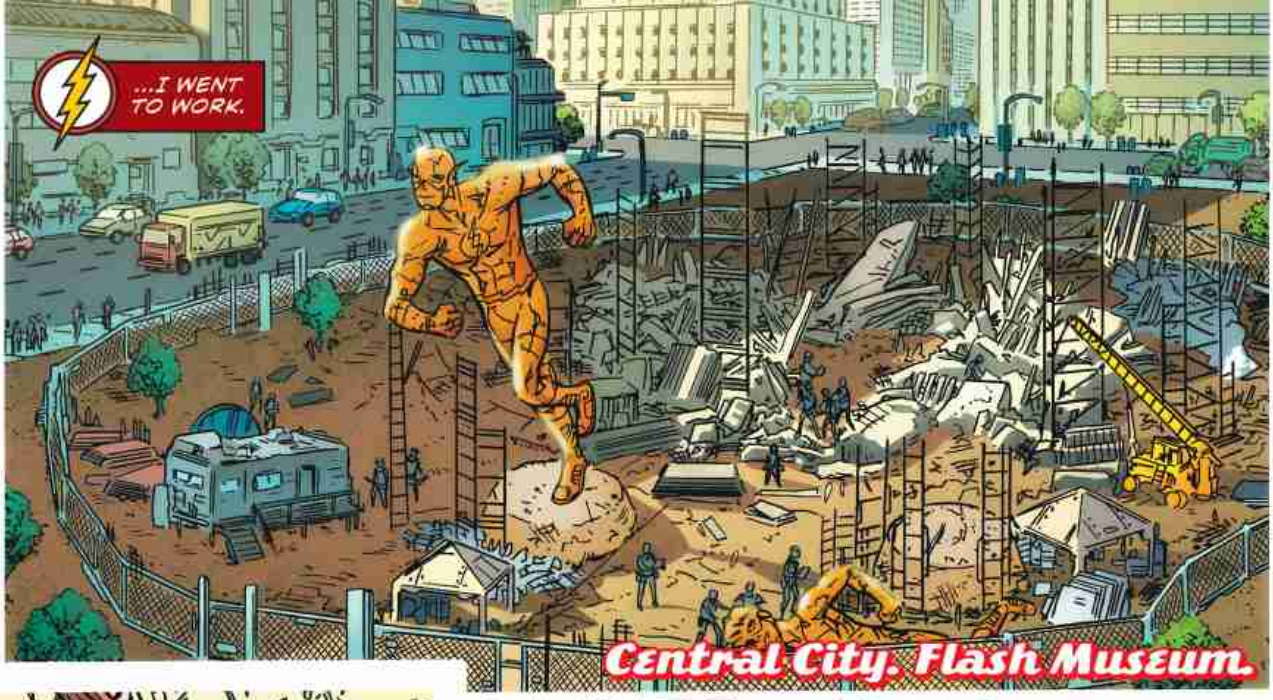
...AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE, I FEEL OPTIMISTIC.
I KNOW I HAVE A LONG ROAD AHEAD OF ME, AND IT WILL BE BUMPY AT TIMES. BUT IF I REMEMBER THIS YEAR...
...I'LL ALWAYS RUN ON THE PATH TO BE THE HERO I WANT TO BE.
MY NAME IS BARRY ALLEN.
I'M THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE! I'M... THE FLASH
CHAPTER SIX: FUTURE FLASH
YEAR ONE
JOSHUA WILLIAMSON & HOWARD PORTER STORYTELLERS
HI-FI COLORIST STEVE WANDS LETTERING PORTER & HI-FI COVER
FRANCIS MANAPUL VARIANT COVER ANDREW MARINO ASSOCIATE EDITOR
PAUL KAMINSKI EDITOR JAMIE S. RICH GROUP EDITOR

≥GASP≤
WAIT--I WAS JUST THERE...MY FIRST YEAR AS THE FLASH. WHAT HAPPENED TO--
I SHOWED YOU YOUR *PAST*, BARRY. YOUR *TRUE* PAST.
THOSE MEMORIES... HOW DID I EVER FORGET--
TIME ON THIS WORLD HAS BEEN MANIPULATED.
IT FEELS LIKE A BIG PUZZLE THAT'S MISSING PIECES.
WHO *ARE* YOU? HOW DID YOU--?
AS I SAID BEFORE...
TODAY

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON WRITER
SCOTT KOLINS ARTIST
LUIS GUERRERO COLORIST
STEVE WANDS LETTERING
ROB LEVIN ASSOCIATE EDITOR
PAUL KAMINSKI EDITOR
JAMIE S. RICH GROUP EDITOR

...MY NAME IS *STEADFAST*.
I AM THE NEW AVATAR OF THE *STILL FORCE*.
LET ME GIVE YOU A GLIMPSE INTO MY *OWN* PAST SO YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHY I HAVE SHOWN YOU THESE VISIONS.
FOREVER, I CHOSE A LIFE OF SOLITUDE...

*...UNTIL THE FORCE BARRIER BROKE, AND I WAS CURSED WITH THE STILL FORCE--AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF TIME THAT COMES WITH IT.
*IN THE PAST, THE STILL FORCE WAS USED FOR SELFISH GAIN. BUT IT IS NOW MY LIFE'S MISSION TO CHANGE THAT.
*I TOOK MY TIME CROSSING A GREAT DISTANCE, ALL SO I COULD BRING THIS GIFT OF MEMORY TO YOU.
RECENTLY YOUR SPEED HAS SLOWED, YES? FOR YOU TO SAVE THE MULTIVERSE YOU WILL NEED TO BE AT YOUR BEST.
THEN I NEED TO MOVE FAST AND--
NO, YOU MUST REMEMBER WHAT YOU LEARNED.
DO YOU TRUST ME, BARRY?
I...YES.
STEADFAST SPOKE ABOUT THE NEW FORCES. HOW THEY'RE ALL CONNECTED AND THE ROLE I'M SUPPOSED TO PLAY IN THE FUTURE...
...AND WHEN WE WERE DONE...


...I WENT TO WORK.
Central City. Flash Museum.

LOOK OUT!

SAFETY FIRST!

GOOD MORNING!
UH...WHERE DID THIS COFFEE COME FROM?!

FIGURED YOU COULD USE THE PICK-ME-UP.
BUT Y'KNOW WHAT--IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN CENTRAL CITY. YOUR CREW SHOULD BE WITH THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

TELL THEM THEY CAN HAVE THE DAY OFF.
WITH PAY.

YOU HEARD THE MAN! CLEAR OUT!
I WISH EVERYTHING COULD BE FIXED WITH SUPER-SPEED.

BUT SOME THINGS TAKE TIME AND PATIENCE.
IF I'M GOING TO MOVE FORWARD AND CORRECT MY MISTAKES, I NEED TO MAKE AMENDS.
I'VE LET A LOT OF PEOPLE DOWN.
RUN AWAY FROM SOME OF MY PROBLEMS--
--OR LET THEM RUN FROM ME.
NO MORE.
IF I CAN'T RUN FASTER, I NEED TO RUN SMARTER.
AND I KNOW JUST WHERE TO START...
WATCH YOUR STEP, COMMANDER!

HAVEN'T CLEANED UP THE WORK TOOLS AND DEBRIS YET. I'LL GET TO IT...IN A FLASH.
RIGHT... HEARD ON THE POLICE WIRE THAT YOU TOOK OVER REPAIRS.
JUST LENDING A HELPING HAND, HENRY.
WANTED TO CHECK ON YOU. AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED WITH IRON HEIGHTS AND TRICKSTER GETTING AWAY YESTERDAY--*
*Back in FLASH #69. --Paul
SPEED FORCE
RACES
COSMIC TREADMILL

THAT WAS YESTERDAY?

ARE YOU OKAY, BARRY?
I'M...I'M GOOD.

SO, YOU DONE?
THAT'S THE THING, COMMANDER...

THE FLASH MUSEUM WILL NEVER BE TRULY DONE.
AND I NEED YOUR HELP WITH SOME SPECIAL UPGRADES.
I KNOW WHAT I NEED TO DO.

THE CHALLENGES WE'LL FACE WILL BE GREAT.
I'LL NEED NEW ALLIES.
FIND WAYS TO WORK WITH MY ENEMIES.
THERE WILL BE GOOD DAYS AND BAD.
TESTS OF MY HOPE...
...OF THE LEGACY WE'VE BUILT.
THERE'S A DARKNESS IN MY PATH.
I CAN FEEL MYSELF RACING TOWARD THE HARDEST TIME OF MY LIFE.
BUT I'LL NEVER GIVE UP...
...NO MATTER THE DANGER THE FUTURE HAS IN STORE FOR ME...
The beginning.

I HAD A TEAM ONCE.
THE ROGUES
WEATHER WIZARD. HE'S BECOME AS VOLATILE AS THE CLIMATE. BUT WHEN YOU NEED SOME EXTRA POWER, HE'S THE MAN.
GLIDER. MY DARLING BABY SISTER. SHE COULD SNEAK INTO YOUR ROOM LIKE A GHOST AND SLIT YOUR THROAT. BUT INSTEAD SHE KEEPS US ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW.
MIRROR MASTER. SELF-CENTERED BUT ALWAYS HAS YOUR BACK.
HEAT WAVE. MY BROTHER FROM ANOTHER MOTHER. HE LOVES FIRE AS MUCH AS I LOVE COLD. WHICH IS TERRIFYING, WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT. I TRY NOT TO.
THE BEST CREW A NO-GOOD CROOK NAMED CAPTAIN COLD COULD ASK FOR.
WE TOOK WHAT WE NEEDED WHEN WE NEEDED IT AND TOLD THE WORLD TO GO TO HELL.
AND YOU NEED A CREW YOU CAN COUNT ON IN THIS LIFE. TRUST ME...
THE OFFER

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON WRITER CHRISTIAN DUCE ARTIST
LUIS GUERRERO COLORIST STEVE WANDS LETTERING
ROB LEVIN ASSOCIATE EDITOR PAUL KAMINSKI EDITOR
JAMIE S. RICH GROUP EDITOR

...I'VE SEEN WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE BAD ONES.
HOLY $#*%! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SUICIDE SQUAD?!
WHO CARES? I DIDN'T BOTHER TO LEARN THEIR NAMES ANYWAY.

BUT I GOT THE BOOK! MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
WALLER'S TRANSPORT PICKUP SHOULD BE ON THE WAY THEN, SNAKEBITE.
YOU KNOW WHAT WE COULD GET FOR THIS BOOK ON THE BLACK MARKET?! WE'D BE SET FOR LIFE!
MAYBE WALLER WILL THINK WE ALL DIED ON HER DAMN SUICIDE MISSION AND WE'LL BE FREE.
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU RUN.
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE CAPTAIN COLD I HEARD ABOUT, HUH?
THE ONE WHO WOULD STICK IT TO THE MAN AT EVERY CHANCE?
THE ROGUE?!
YOU MIGHT BE CONTENT LIVING THIS LIFE OF SERVITUDE, BUT WALLER AIN'T MY MASTER!

BOOM

SNAKEBITE CAN SAY WHATEVER HE WANTS ABOUT ME. I KNOW I'M A SURVIVOR. THAT'S ALL YOU CAN BE WHEN YOUR ADDRESS IS...

...BELLE REVE. HOME OF TASK FORCE X.
THE ROGUES AND I MAY HAVE LIVED BY A CODE...
...BUT BEING IN THE SUICIDE SQUAD MEANS LIVING BY SOMEONE ELSE'S CODE.
AMANDA WALLER'S.

THAT WITCH PUT A BOMB IN MY HEAD. SAID IF I DIDN'T DO AS I WAS TOLD, I'D PAY WITH MY LIFE.
SO WHEN I FIRST GOT TO BELLE REVE, I THOUGHT I'D MAKE THE BEST OF IT.
BE A REAL TEAM PLAYER.
BUT WATCHING MY TEAMMATES DIE GOT OLD REAL FAST.
AFTER A WHILE I WAS JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS. DOING WHATEVER I COULD TO KEEP ON LIVING.
PLAYING IT SAFE.
JUST LIKE MY GOOD-FOR-NOTHING OLD MAN.

MY DAD WAS JUST A LOSER WHO HATED HIS FAMILY.
HE TOOK WHATEVER HARDSHIPS LIFE THREW AT HIM AND GAVE UP.
TOOK HIS ANGER OUT ON EVERYONE AROUND HIM BECAUSE HE WAS TOO AFRAID TO MAKE A CHANGE.
I WANTED TO BE NOTHING LIKE HIM.
I WAS GONNA BE SOMEBODY.
TAKE CARE OF MY FAMILY AND--
GET UP, COLD. TIME TO DIE.

I JUST GOT BACK FROM A MISSION.
DO I LOOK LIKE I CARE?
SPECIAL REQUEST FOR YOU CAME IN, LOSER.
WHO'RE YOU CALLING A LOSER?
I COULD KILL YOU.
YOU SEE ANYONE ELSE AROUND?
YEAH, BUT YOU WON'T.
BEFORE YOU GOT HERE THE WORD WAS THAT YOU WERE COLD INSIDE, BUT AFTER WATCHING YOU COME BACK FROM ALL THESE MISSIONS AS THE LONE SURVIVOR, I KNOW WHAT YOU REALLY ARE ON THE INSIDE...
DEAD.
HE'S RIGHT. AND THAT'S THE REASON I HATED THAT D-LISTER SNAKEBITE. HE HAD MORE BALLS THAN I EVER DID. HE TOOK A RISK. DIED FOR IT, BUT AT LEAST HE TRIED.
EVEN BEFORE I GOT HERE, I WAS LIVING BY MY OWN CODE...BUT LOOK WHERE IT GOT ME. WORKING FOR THIS TOOL WITH A BOMB IN MY HEAD.
THIS ISN'T A LIFE.
WOULD YOU JUST GET IT OVER WITH ALREADY?! PULL THE DAMN TRIGGER!
END IT. KILL ME!
YOU HEAR ME?!
BLOW MY DAMN HEAD UP!
DO IT!

BOOM
WHAT THE #@&%?!
DAMN, IF I HAD KNOWN THAT COULD WORK, I WOULD'VE--
THOOM
WHAT...?
IT'S...

"...SNOWING?"
"DO NOT BE ALARMED BY MY PRESENCE TODAY.
"I HAVE SENT THIS DRONE FROM THE LEGION OF DOOM HEADQUARTERS TO FREE YOU... AND DELIVER A MESSAGE.
"IT SNOWS BECAUSE I USED TECHNOLOGY YOU CREATED. I WANTED YOU TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE IF YOU DREAMED BIGGER THAN YOU HAVE IN THE PAST.
"LEONARD SNART, YOU AND I HAVE FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE.
"WE WALKED THE PATH OF THE RIGHTEOUS IN THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD GIVE US A BETTER FUTURE.
"WE WERE WRONG."
WORD IN BELLE REVE WAS YOU KICKED THE BUCKET, LEX.
I HAVE...

...EVOLVED.
STILL LOOK A LITTLE WORSE FOR WEAR TO ME.
I'VE COME WITH AN OFFER, SNART. YOUR FREEDOM IS JUST THE BEGINNING. I KNOW WHAT YOUR COLD HEART HAS ALWAYS CRAVED.
I'M GAME FOR WHATEVER YOU'RE UP TO LEX, UNDER ONE CONDITION.
THE ROGUES GET THE SAME DEAL.
FIRST, I TAKE CARE OF MY FAMILY...
...THEN WE TAKE CARE OF THE FLASH.
NEXT: THE YEAR OF THE VILLAIN BEGINS!

YEAR OF THE VILLAIN • DARK GIFTS

August Checklist

- ☐ ACTION COMICS #1014
- ☐ AQUAMAN #51
- ☐ BATGIRL #38
- ☐ BATMAN #76
- ☐ BATMAN #77
- ☐ BATMAN & THE OUTSIDERS #4
- ☐ BLACK MASK: YEAR OF THE VILLAIN #1
- ☐ CATWOMAN #14
- ☐ DEATHSTROKE #46
- ☐ DETECTIVE COMICS #1009
- ☐ DETECTIVE COMICS #1010
- ☐ THE FLASH #76
- ☐ THE FLASH #77
- ☐ HARLEY QUINN #64
- ☐ HAWKMAN #15
- ☐ JUSTICE LEAGUE #29
- ☐ JUSTICE LEAGUE #30
- ☐ JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK #14
- ☐ JUSTICE LEAGUE ODYSSEY #12
- ☐ NIGHTWING #63
- ☐ RED HOOD: OUTLAW #37
- ☐ SINESTRO: YEAR OF THE VILLAIN #1
- ☐ SUPERGIRL #33
- ☐ SUPERMAN #14
- ☐ TEEN TITANS #33
- ☐ THE TERRIFICS #19
- ☐ WONDER WOMAN #76
- ☐ WONDER WOMAN #77

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A DC NATION interview with DAVID MARQUEZ

What can you tell us about the story?

In the aftermath of DARK NIGHTS: METAL and THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS, the DC Universe faces a threat committed to destroying all that is good and hopeful, corrupting it from the inside. As powerful as the team of Batman and Superman are, the threat they're facing knows them as well as they know themselves, and each other. How far are they willing to go to save their reality, and how changed will they be if they succeed?

Why are you excited about this project?

This book is such a HUGE DEAL! BATMAN/SUPERMAN is the ideal book for me to cut my teeth on the DC Universe. I've been a fan of DC since I was a kid, but this is my first time ever actually working within this universe. The opportunity to start with the two biggest heroes in the DC pantheon is both a huge honor and, if I'm being frank, a fairly daunting challenge. I am trying to honor the history of these characters while also putting my own mark on their legacies. Plus, I'm getting to jump right into the middle of one of the most impactful storylines in the ongoing DC epic.

What's it like working with Josh Williamson?

Oh, it's a match made in heaven. I'm a huge fan of Josh's work, and we've been friends for a while. The wonderful surprise is that as we've gotten to work on this project, I've found that our storytelling sensibilities are incredibly complementary. We both really value character, balanced with filling each and every issue with as much just plain cool stuff as possible.

Why should fans check this out?

The story we're crafting will shape the DC Universe for years to come—this story MATTERS. And with the incredible talent of Alejandro Sanchez on colors, we'll be making it look as cool as possible along the way!

Describe the series in seven words or fewer.

Save the world from the threat within.

What should first-time readers know before picking this up?

This book is made for anybody to be able to pick up and enjoy, from the most avid DC fan to a first-time comics reader. It's a story about these two characters, their friendship and mutual respect and how all of that is put to the test when the world, and their entire reality, is at stake.

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ZONE